

Appl. No. : 09/943,483
Filed : August 29, 2001

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed July 17, 2003, the Examiner objected to the drawings, objected to the grammatical error in the abstract of the disclosure, and rejected Claims 7-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and § 103. Applicant first thanks the Examiner for extending an invitation to discuss the application as summarized in the "SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW" section. By this paper, Applicant addresses each of the objections and the claim rejections.

Drawings Objection

In the Office Action mailed July 17, 2003, the Examiner objected to the drawings for not showing the staples as recited in Claim 14. By this paper, Applicant amends Figure 6 of the drawings to show the back side of the padded sign 312 as disclosed in the specification (page 13, lines 12-22). Applicant has denoted the back view as Figure 6B, and the existing Figure 6 has been renamed as Figure 6A. Corresponding amendments to the specification are indicated in the "AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION" section of this paper.

The foregoing amendments to the drawings and the corresponding amendments to the specification simply clarify the description of the padded sign 312 disclosed in page 13, lines 18-20. Thus, no new matter is introduced, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments to the drawings and the corresponding amendments to the specification be accepted.

Objection to the Specification

In the Office Action mailed July 17, 2003, the Examiner objected to the awkward and confusing language in the abstract of the disclosure. By this paper, Applicant has amended the abstract of the disclosure to correct the grammatical error. Specifically, "are configures" has been changed to "are configured." No new matter is introduced by this amendment of the specification.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action mailed July 17, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 7-14, 18, and 21 as being indefinite. By this paper, Applicant has amended Claims 7, 18, and 21 to address each of the antecedent support issues pointed out by the Examiner. Claims 8-14 depend on Claim 7;

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thus with the amendment to Claim 7, these claims are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action mailed July 17, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 7-21 as being unpatentable over the Smith (U.S. Patent No. 2,767,895) reference in view of the Ely (U.S. Patent No. 3,471,197) reference. Furthermore, the Examiner rejected Claims 15-21 as unpatentable over the Navarino (U.S. Patent No. 3,283,433) reference in view of the Chapman (U.S. Patent No. 3,703,312) reference.

As discussed in the interview, none of the cited references disclose, teach, or suggest a padded sign removably attached to the front portion of a folding chair. To claim the chair and the padded sign as a combination, Applicant has amended independent Claim 7 to positively recite the chair and further define the manner in which the padded sign comes in contact with the person's back when the person's back is supported by the back rest portion. Applicant has also amended Claim 15 to further define the manner in which a sign inscribed on the padding comes in contact with the person's back when the person's back is supported by the back rest portion. Applicant believes that the amended independent Claims 7 and 15 are patentable over the cited references.

Rejection of Dependent Claims

Claims 8-14 and 16-21 which respectively depend from Claims 7 and 15, are believed to be patentable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claims 7 and 15, and because of the additional features recited therein.

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SUMMARY

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes that this Application is now in a condition ready for allowance and respectfully requests the prompt allowance of the same. Should there be any impediment to the allowance of this application that could be resolved by a telephone call, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Dated: _____

1/13/04

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

By: _____

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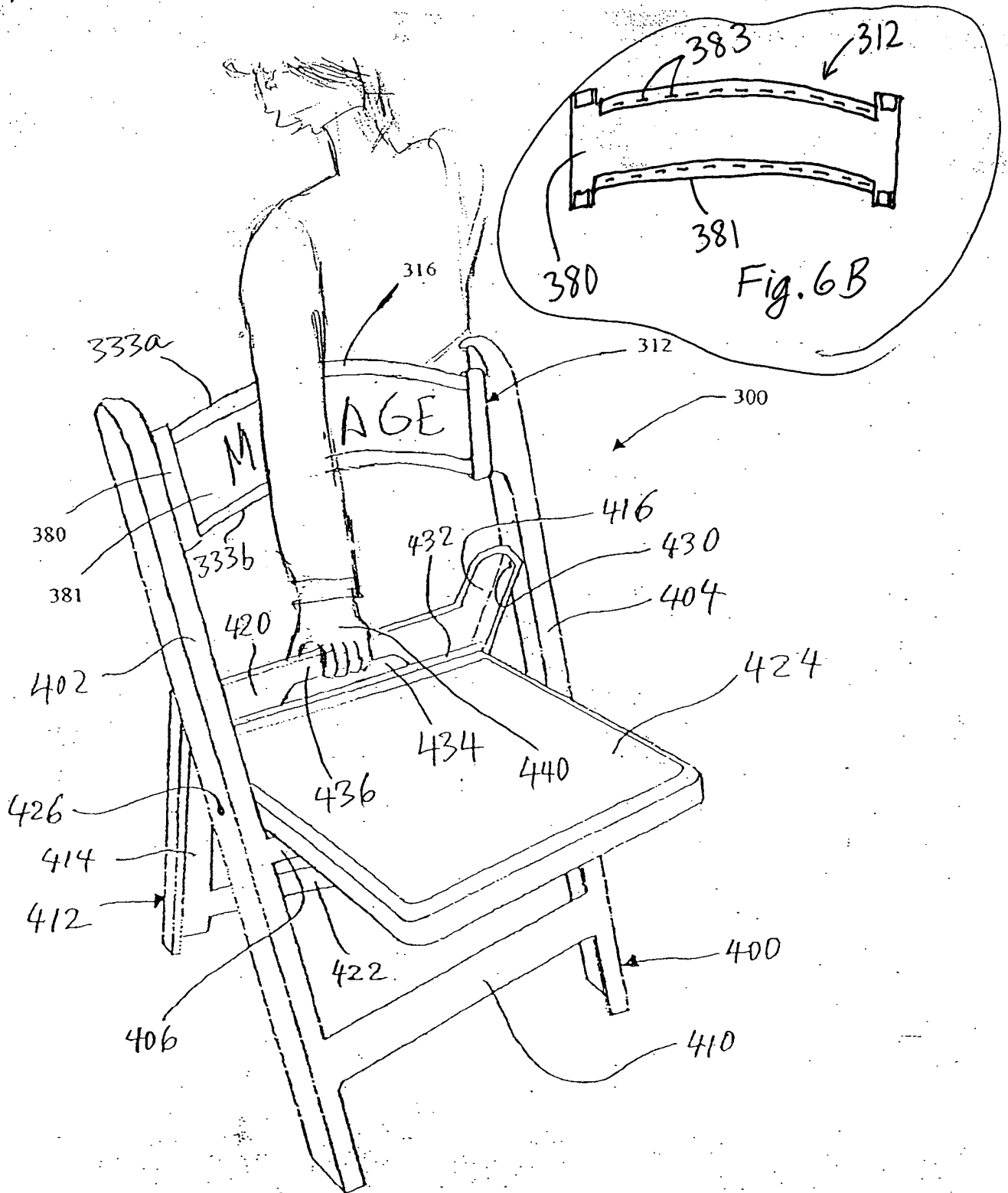


Figure 6A